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Numismatic Bibliomania Society

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Of all the branches of the sport connected with book collecting, that of attending book auctions is the greatest, the most stirring. I presume some patient mathematician knows the number of facets of the Koh-i-nur diamond, but no one will ever be able to count the emotional reflections which take place during a book auction in the hearts and minds of men and women who are enamored of books. The book auction is an adventure. Other adventures may lose their glamour if you repeat them, but each experience at a sale of books brings a delightful thrill never to be duplicated.

A. S. W. ROSENBACH
1876-1952



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President's Message — by Wayne Homren

The big news in our previous issue was the transition to our new printer, Stanton Publishing. Well, with this issue our organization has successfully negotiated another major transition.

For personal reasons, Marilyn Reback was unable to continue her duties as editor. The Board and I are pleased to announce that Tom Fort has taken over the editorial reigns of *The Asylum*. Tom introduces himself below.

He brings to the role a great deal of experience in editing publications, and his knowledge and contacts in the field of classical numismatics will help to broaden the subject matter of our journal.

Although the transition led to the late arrival of the current

issue, Tom, myself, and the entire NBS Board have committed to completing the new year with the full complement of four issues for the year 2000 volume.

We have a number of very fine articles in the pipeline for the coming year, and are certain our members will be pleased with the results.

Meanwhile, *The Asylum's* electronic companion, *The E-Sylum*, has continued uninterrupted on a regular weekly basis. The subscriber list has climbed to about 275 individuals worldwide. It's a great way for bibliophiles to keep in touch and comment on current issues of interest to our specialty.

Please send subscription requests to me at whomren@coinlibrary.com

Editorial: Who Am I? Why Am I Here? by E. Tomlinson Fort

First, let me apologize for the lateness of this issue. Most of you expected the Winter 1999 issue in October and it is February 2000 when it finally lands upon your doorstep. The reasons for this are too long for me to go into here, but let me say that it is my hope, and that of the NBS board, that future issues will be arriving on a more regular basis.

Not wishing to be rude, I

should introduce myself and make a bit of a confession: I have only a minimum knowledge of American numismatics and American numismatic books. This is not to say I am unfamiliar with the numismatic world. I hold degrees in ancient and medieval history from both Penn State and the University of St. Andrews (Scotland), I have taught these subjects at both of these institutions, as well as at

La Roche College in Pittsburgh.

As a post-graduate student at St. Andrews I was fortunate to work under Prof. Donald Bullough and Dr. Veronica Smart and much of my studies dealt with Anglo-Saxon diplomatics and monetary history. I have published numismatic articles, and the occasional review, in *Spink's Numismatic Circular*, *The Classical Numismatic Review*, *The Celator*, and *The Clarion*. I was the editor of *The Proceedings of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society* which were published in 1994. In addition to my membership to the NBS, I am a member of the British Numismatic Society, the Royal Numismatic Society, the Medieval Academy of America, the Societe francaise de numismatique and the American Numismatic Society.

I have an extensive library of books (15 bookcases and growing). However, it consists almost exclusively of ancient and medieval history and coinage. In short, I do have experience with numismatics, numismatic literature and book collecting. Though I also have limitations – the obvious one being that while I have been involved in numismatic research for almost two decades I only heard about Sylvester Crosby and Henry

Chapman within the past few years.* To me, they were as obscure as the Vicomte Ponton d'Amecourt and Nicholas Orsme are to many of you.

Since my personal areas of interest are on the other side of the Atlantic, and deal with periods long before Europeans set up permanent settlements on this side, it is my hope during my tenure as editor to slowly broaden the scope of this journal a bit. However, those whose passion is for American literature please do not worry, I have no intention in making this organization into the *Société pour l'étude de littérature numismatique*.

I am new to this position, consequently I will make mistakes. Thus, I welcome all suggestions and comments. Please feel free to contact me via either the postal service or e-mail. On occasion I also have a table at coin shows in the Cleveland and Pittsburgh area. Feel free to stop over and talk any time. I won't even make you buy anything.

Finally, even more important than your comments, are submission(s) to this journal. Without these this publication cannot survive. It is my hope that during my tenure this journal will continue to grow and expand as it has in previous years.

*The joke in Pittsburgh is that while Wayne Homren and I have two of the largest numismatic libraries in western Pennsylvania, and for several years we lived within three blocks of each other, there are virtually no duplications between our collections.

Letters to the Editor

Danish Colonies in America

Daniel Groux wasn't as far out as Joel Orosz thinks. [See "The Printer's Devil: Daniel Groux's 'Descriptive Catalogue' for the Maryland Historical Society and the Coins of Joel Barlow," *The Asylum* 13/3 (1999), p. 6.] There are real coins of the Danish colony in America! They are not common and they are mostly ignored by collectors of Early American coins. These coins were made for the Danish West Indies. You will know the place today as the United States Virgin Islands.

The Danish West Indies coins have the legend DANSKE AMERICANSK, or some similar abbreviation. They were made from 1740 to 1767, in copper

and silver. The copper one skilling pieces of 1740 (only) are rare. Silver pieces made from 1740 to 1767 are more common, and come in 12 and 24 skilling denominations.

Ken Bressett

Woodward Writing Samples Sought

I am conducting research regarding W.E. Woodward and would like to examine samples of his handwriting for comparison purposes.

I hope to attribute a catalog in my library to him personally. NBS members may contact me at the following address.

John Murison, 6 Club Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21210

Email: jamstock@yahoo.com.

New Members

Tony Anastas, Wenham, MA
Jim Bussman, Long Valley, NJ
Bob Schuman, Dalton, PA

Harold Thomas, Lehigh Acres,
FL
Jack Wadlington, San Diego, CA

Some Numismatic Web Sites listed in the E-Sylum:

The Coins of Colonial and Early America, a project of the Robert H. Gore Jr. Numismatic Endowment, University of Notre Dame, Department of Special Collections.

<http://www.nd.edu/~rarebook/coins/ColCoin/index.html>

The Bank of Canada's web site. Available in both English and French, it contains an online museum of Canadian numismatics.

<http://www.bank-banque-canada.ca>

Eben Locke Mason, Jr. – A Double Life

by D.R.R. Pepper

To begin with, I do not mean Mason was deliberately deceiving people. Rather, that most of his numismatic associates did not seem to know much about his personal life and that most of his non-numismatic associates did not seem to know that he bought, sold and collected coins. Why this was I cannot say, but it seems to have been the case. Most of what follows will therefore concern Mason's "other" life, the one apart from his numismatic interests.

As recently as the early 1990s, when I first saw his name in print, I had no idea that Eben Locke Mason was a numismatist. I am not one myself. I became interested in Mason for reasons that had nothing to do with numismatics. His conspicuous involvement in that area was revealed to me by a single entry in the gargantuan *National Union Catalog*, or NUC.

At the time I wanted to learn more about Mason because I was particularly interested in a good friend of his, Edward Zane Carroll Judson (more about him in a moment). I went to the most accessible set of the NUC, in the Hoover Institution on the campus of Stanford University, hoping that Mason published at least one book. Turned out he had, and the one listed by the NUC

was a pamphlet entitled *Rare American Coins* (Boston, 1887). The only copy known to the catalog was in the Library of Congress. That institution was kind enough to photocopy and send the entire text to me.

Rare American Coins is the only publication by Mason I have seen to date. I am, however, aware that he wrote extensively on numismatic matters. I hope the facts I have turned up, along with autobiographical nuggets in Mason's own publications, can eventually be combined to produce a proper "Life" of this interesting man.

In the meantime, we return to that friend I mentioned – Edward Zane Carroll Judson, a flamboyant author/adventurer, better known by his most famous pen-name, Ned Buntline. Sometimes called "King of the Dime Novelists," Buntline was born in the early 1820s (the exact year is uncertain). He probably met Mason during the 1850s, in connection with one of his pet projects.

It is said that Mason was associate editor of *Ned Buntline's Own*, a journal Ned published from time to time, from the 1840s to the 1860s. I have not seen a single issue; so for information on the journal I relied almost entirely on what has been

said by Ned's biographer Jay Monaghan. He published in 1951a comprehensive life of Ned, called (significantly) *The Great Rascal*.

Monaghan has nothing at all to say about Mason. The reason, I suspect, is that Monaghan was unable to find any information on the man. However, Monaghan was certainly aware of Mason's connection with Buntline. Mason is quoted, at length and quite respectfully, by Ned's first biographer Frederick E. Pond. He knew Ned, and apparently Mason as well, in the 1870s and early 1880s.

Under the pen-name "Will Wildwood," Pond edited a pioneering outdoorsman's journal *Wildwood's Magazine*, to which Ned occasionally contributed.

After Buntline's death in July 1886, Pond decided to write a life of his friend. During the next year or so, he gathered as much information as he could and published it serially in *Wildwood's* over a period of ninth months – from May 1888 to January 1889. A fair amount of this narrative Pond dished up "raw," in the form of long quotations from a number of informants. And one of these sources was Mason, described by Pond as one "of Ned's most intimate acquaintances" and "associate editor of *Ned Buntline's Own*."

Mason's contribution was largely a disquisition on Ned's nomadic life and careless habits.

According to Mason whenever the novelist packed up and left one of his many abodes he scattered to the four winds nearly all his personal property and sallied forth with little more than the clothes on his back. Since the objects of this carelessness included manuscripts, letters and every other kind of written record, when Ned died there were not many documents left for a biographer.

Mason, as it turns out, was well acquainted not only with Ned but also with his last wife, Anna Fuller. She was a native of Stamford, in Delaware County N.Y., where Ned had been born. But, Ned had left that area as a small child, returning to it only when he was around 50 years old. Having abandoned his previous wife and their four children, Ned married Anna Fuller and settled down permanently in Stamford in 1871. When he died there 15 years later, his widow was left with their son, a boy named for his father, and the memory of a daughter, who had died at the age of four.

Mason must have paid more than one visit to "Eagle's Nest," the commodious Stamford house where Squire Edward Judson and his small family lived. On July 9, 1888 E. Locke Mason was married – at Stamford – to Ned's widow, Mrs. Anna Fuller Judson. I learned this from an excellent biographical sketch of Buntline by Albert Johannsen, a historian of dime novels.

Coincidentally the marriage took place the same month in which Pond published Mason's reminiscences of Ned.

I had known about the marriage for some years when I was first becoming interested in Ned Buntline. A woman in California, one of Ned's many romantic interests, had preserved a newspaper clipping about the wedding of Mason and Anna Judson. A photocopy was sent to me by her grandson, whom I had visited at his home in the San Francisco Bay area.

Records of the town clerk in South Kortright, N.Y. (a township adjacent to Stamford), give vital statistics from bride and groom. Anna, age 38, was the daughter of J.W. Fuller and Sarah Buell Fuller, both of Stamford. The groom, Eben Locke Mason, age 52, was a coin dealer in Boston and this was his third marriage. He had been born in Portland, Me., the son of Eben Locke Mason (Sr.) and Mary Scott Cobbe Mason. His precise birth date, which I've been unable to determine, would have been either in the latter months of 1835 or the early months of 1836.

In 1971 a man named Malcolm MacPherson published a booklet titled *E.Z.C. Judson, Alias Ned Buntline*, of which there is a copy in the Stamford (N.Y.) Public Library. It's a typewritten text, consisting of title-page plus 24 pages of biography and eight pages of illustrations. It

was probably produced by the author. In the text, MacPherson states that he was born in Stamford *circa* 1900 and grew up hearing many stories about Ned, "most of which were fantastically inaccurate."

The young MacPherson befriended Clifford Champion, whose father had known Ned well in the 1870s and 1880s. The elder Champion had compiled a scrapbook about Buntline which MacPherson acquired in 1937 when Clifford Champion died. MacPherson described it as "the source of most of my knowledge [about Ned]."

On the final pages of MacPherson's text, he gives the following information about E. Locke Mason:

1. Soon after Ned's death, Mason inserted an advertisement in the *Mirror*, asking for mementos of the late Col. Judson, to be used in a biography projected by Mason himself. He identifies himself only as a "publisher" and gives Box 2436 as his address.

2. Another clipping from the *Mirror*, dated July 31, 1888, deserves to be quoted at length:

Capt. E. Locke Mason, of Boston, it seems was an old chum of the late Col. Judson, served with him in the late Civil War, and was associated with him in the publication of Ned's famous newspaper "Ned Buntline's Own," besides being an active member of the unfortunate "Lone Star" orga-

nization of Cuba and General Lopez notoriety. Was associated with Buntline in various American [patriotic] orders with which he was connected, and manager of various dramatic temples in Philadelphia and elsewhere during Ned's tour of the United States [in 1872 and 1873] ...

Since the Col.'s decease Mason has been attending to the business matters connected with "Eagle's Nest," and is now writing the Colonel's biography.

The tour referred to was of a play, *The Scouts of the Prairie*, written by Ned and starring himself, along with Buffalo Bill Cody and others. I've accumulated a good deal of previously unknown information about this tour, but it does not include any mention of Mason.

3. MacPherson speculates that the unnamed source of the information in that clipping was Mason himself, and that some of it – he does not elaborate – was "far from correct." MacPherson adds:

Clifford Champion told me that Mason did complete Ned's biography, but it was never published, possibly because Pond had already completed and published his.

4. In July 1888 "Champ" was surprised to receive a postcard from the Rev. F.B. Murch of South Kortright, announcing that he had officiated at the wedding

of "Mrs. Anna F. Judson ... & Mr. Eben L. Mason." MacPherson adds:

Clifford Champion told me some years later [*circa*1928] that Mason thought that Mrs. Judson had money; also that she though Mason had money. They went to Europe on their honeymoon and found that between them they had barely enough money for the return trip.

5. MacPherson notes that Ned's son Eddie died "on August 11, 1894, at the age of thirteen." The scrapbook apparently contained no information on Mason's death, but it did reveal that Anna and Mason had at least one child of their own – a son, who grew to maturity. An obituary preserved by the American Numismatic Society puts Mason's death in September 1901, when he was in his mid-60s and Anna in her early 50s. They were then living in Philadelphia.

Anna Fuller Judson Mason died on January 15, 1917. Her and Mason's son survived her. Since he was born no later than the mid-1890s he may have left descendants.

That is very nearly the full extent of my present knowledge of Mason's life, aside from his flourishing career as a numismatist. I hesitate to venture into that minefield, for three reasons: First, I know next to nothing about numismatics. Secondly, I

have read, as already noted above, only one of Mason's numismatic publications. Finally, I strongly suspect that Eben Locke Mason Jr. has occasionally be confused with a Philadelphia numismatist named Edward Mason Jr.

For an authoritative discussion of E. Locke Mason's numismatic career I refer readers to John W. Adams' biographical sketch, "Ebenezer Locke Mason," in volume one of *United States Numismatic Literature* (George Kolbe, 1982).

Pending clarification of the questions I have raised, I urge those readers who have copies of E. Locke Mason's publications to look them over for information

about his non-numismatic activities. For example, on page 22 of *Rare American Coins*, Mason reveals that he was in London during the summer of 1886. This means that he would have missed Ned Buntline's funeral. It was a grand affair, and if Mason had been there he would surely have contributed a eulogy to some newspaper or magazine.

One final point, Mr. Adams calls him Ebenezer Locke Mason and that does seem to have been the baptismal first name of father and son. I am no authority on the subject, but it looks to me as if many 19th-century Ebenezers shortened that biblical name to Eben, as being less rustic and more "modern."

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ANA Life Member 2316

The Printer's Devil: The Tenth Annual "Shammies" Awards

by Joel J. Orosz

The Academy of Wretched Excess in Numismatic Advertising is pleased to present the tenth annual edition of the "Shammies," those coveted awards which honor excellence in the employment of hyperbole to increase sales. The coin market has been red-hot over the past year, and the ad copy has consequently become passionately purple. Once more, your columnist is the sole judge of these awards, which will consist, as in years past, of two sections: Bloviations by the Blowhards, and Bloopers by the More Bashful. Let us begin with the Bloviations.

The "Hideousness in Description" award goes to perennial honoree David Hall, for headlining an offering "Monstrous 1882 21/2 Liberty." Judge's note: Our handy dictionary defines "monstrous" as follows: 1. Frightful or hideous; esp. in appearance. 2. Shocking or revolting; outrageous." If Mr. Hall is to be taken literally, apparently PCGS MS-67s ain't what they used to be!

Coin World (CW), 7-12-99, p. 25.

The "Dan Quayle's Potatoe" award goes to Valley View Coins, for peddling a "Unification of

Germany" coin set, which includes a piece of barbed wire, which, they note, "divided the German" [sic], and also a piece of concrete labeled "Relict [sic] of the Berlin Wall."

Valley View Coins, Vol. 2, No. 3, 1999, p. 1.

The "You Can Profit from the End of Civilization" award goes to the Y2K Silver Company for shilling the "OBU" or "Official Barter Unit" Silver Round. Judge's comment: One might ask what duly constituted body sanctions millennial panic-mongering. One might also ask why, given the imminent collapse of all computer systems, the Y2K Silver Company bothered to secure a web site at www.y2ksilvercompany.com?

CW, 3-29-99, p.63.

The "Continuing Abuse of the Word 'Unique'" award goes to American Express, in collaboration with the "American Historic Society," for offering "Unique Pennies of the 19th Century:" an 1857 Flying Eagle, 1822 Large Cent, and 1863 Indian Cent. Judge's note: This glossy come-on contains other numismatic "treasures" as well, such as a lamp made of Lincoln Cents.

American Express, Winter 1999 Mailing

The "You Will Love Our Fee-free Fees" award goes to Independent Coin Grading Company for the following pitch: "ICG's 'no grade, no fee' policy. We charge only a five-dollar processing fee if we 'no grade' a coin."

CW, 2-8-99, Front Wrapper Ad

The "Thank Heavens it's not Cast" award goes to veteran Shammies honoree Jay Parrino, who describes a 1914 MS-65 Indian Head Half Eagle as "original, fresh and struck!"

Numismatic News (NN), 11-17-98, p. 25.

The "What Becomes a Legend Least" award goes to Kagin's and Jay Parrino's *The Mint*, for excessive and unnecessary puffing about the McCoy-Brand-Yale University Brasher Doubloon. Judge's note: The description is larded with debatable statements, such as "This specimen boasts THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS AND IMPORTANT PEDIGREE in American numismatics," and at least two statements that are dead wrong: "The Brasher Doubloon was THE FIRST GOLD COIN REGULARLY STRUCK FOR CIRCULATION IN THE UNITED STATES!" (Breen calls them patterns.) Another misstatement: "Edward Cogan (America's first coin dealer)." Cogan was not even the first coin dealer in Philadelphia (both William Idler and John W. Kline

beat him to the punch in the Quaker City).

CW, 3-2-98, p. 67.

The "It's the Very Best – Except for the Better Ones" award goes to double winner Jay Parrino for peddling an MS-64 1921 Double Eagle with the following headline: "When you're ready for the best, the very best." Judge's note: The fine print contains the following information about this "very best" coin: "This beautiful specimen is certainly among the finest surviving examples, Akers noting that 'only a very few exist which could reasonably be graded MS-64 or better.'"

NN, 1-20-98, p. 13.

The "Not So Immaculate Conception" award goes to double winner David Hall, for his highly innovative use of the word "immaculate" in describing an 1834 Classic Head Five-Dollar Gold Piece: "The surfaces are immaculate, just a few microscopic scuffs away from an even higher grade." Judge's note: Just imagine what Mr. Hall's standard of definition would do to the doctrine of immaculate conception!

CW, 5-25-98, p. 45.

The "Kurt Krueger Memorial Understatement in Cataloging" award goes to triple winner Jay Parrino, for gushing about the Jack Lee 1886-O Silver Dollar: "The almost incomprehensible quality and rarity of the specimen offered here is so extreme

that it nearly defies belief.”

CW, 5-25-98, p. 54.

The “Do You Suppose this is *Really* Their Fourth Best Reason?” award goes to Kingswood Coin Auctions, for listing as number four of their “top ten reasons why the Kingswood VI coin auction sale is for you” as follows: “Every coin is described with the lot number, date, grade, denomination, and minimum bid.” Judge’s note: Don’t you just hate those other coin auction catalogs that don’t give the lot number, date, grade, and denomination of the coin being sold?

CW, 5-25-98, p. 63.

The “Unimprovable – Unless a Fully Struck Example Comes Along” award goes to quadruple winner Jay Parrino, for calling an 1895-O Silver Dollar “simply unimprovable,” after having first noted its “tiniest marks” and its being “not quite fully struck.”

NN, 6-23-98, p. 13.

The “Spectacularly Bad Timing” award goes to The Coin Depot, for making the following bold statement: “Just as the buffalo vanished from the Great Plains, the Buffalo Nickel is rapidly disappearing.” Judge’s note: On page three of the same newspaper, it was announced that the Littleton Coin Company had acquired—and would soon be selling—a hoard of 300,000 Buffalo Nickels!

CW, 4-20-98, p. 13.

The “Perfection Ain’t What it Used to be” award goes to triple winner David Hall for his description of a 1934 MS-66 Peace Dollar: “A monster gem. The surfaces are so clean the word ‘perfect’ comes readily to mind. You really have to look close to find a few microscopic marks.” Judge’s note: If an MS-66 with marks brings to mind the word “perfect,” does an MS-67 with fewer marks bring to mind the word “perfecter?”

CW, 7-6-98, p.64.

The “Creative Writing and Even More Creative Math” award goes to Sovereign Entities Grading Service, which offers a “free gift” worth \$35, and a “free subscription” to a numismatic publication, for a mere \$60 annual dues payment. The company also clearly states its policy, transcribed here exactly as it appeared in the ad: “Wedonotbaseourpr icingst ruct ureorf eesc hargedonthevalueofa-coin(s).” Judge’s comment: Thanks for clearing that up for us!

NN, 5-19-98, p. 15.

The “Not-As-Daring-As-You-Might-Think’ award goes to quadruple winner David Hall for offering “\$110 Worth of PCGS Graded Coins Free as part of a daring market offer” Judge’s note: The offer becomes considerably less daring when one discovers that one must pay \$97 for a subscription to Mr. Hall’s *Inside*

View newsletter in order to get the \$110 worth of "free" coins.

CW, 10-4-99, p.5 9.

The "What, Leftovers Again?" award goes to the National Collector's Mint, Inc., for peddling the "first U.S. legal tender silver certificate design in real silver!" Judge's note: Puzzled because you cannot remember the Bureau of Engraving and Printing issuing an "authentic legal tender silver certificate ... in .999 pure silver?" Don't be. This is an actual silver certificate encased in .999 silver foil.

CW, 10-4-99, p. 87.

The "English as She is Spoke" award goes to quintuple winner Jay Parrino, for these two gems, both culled from the same ad. Describing an 1877 Indian Cent (PR-66, Red), Parrino says, "This gem proof has virtually no toning at all, although what does exist is a vivid and attractive magenta color." That, however, is a masterpiece of clarity compared to this sentence, quoted in its entirety, from his description of a 1796 Draped Bust Small Eagle Dime: "Viewed today, such historic memento from America's rugged youth."

NN, 7-7-98, p. 19.

The "Notate the New Word" award goes to Delaware Valley Rare Coin Company for their use of the phrase "notated on the insert." Judge's comment: Thanks to NBS member Ken Barr for noticing this one. Ken

adds, "I votate for this as the best new numiword of 1999."

CW, 2-22-99, p. 104.

The 'Even Better Than Our Superb Proof VG-8's" award goes to double winner Coin Depot for offering "Superb Proof Washington Silver Quarter Rolls, extremely fine to about uncirculated." Judge's note: Thanks again to Ken Barr for spotting this one.

CW, 3-1-99, p. 103.

The "As Long As You Literally Pay Us \$29 First" award goes to *Coin Connoisseur* magazine for headlining their ad, "We'll practically pay you to receive *Coin Connoisseur* magazine," after which they say, in agate print, that they want \$29 for one year's subscription.

CW, 7-13-99, p. 43.

The "Check Them Figgers Agin" award goes to past winner David Vogel, who hawks his book *The 27 Most Closely Guarded Secrets of the Rare Coin Industry*, for \$19.95. Quoting Mr. Vogel: "Since I now charge \$1,000 per hour as a consultant, I initially planned on selling the book for \$295, figuring all my training material would make or save the average numismatic consumer ten to one hundred times that figure. However, quite honestly, I am looking for back-end business." Judge's comment: Why would a guy making more than \$2,000,000 per year as a consultant be looking for

\$19.95 in backend business?

CW, 6-29-98, p.20.

The "I Never Knew John J. Pittman Had A Brother" award goes to Monaco Financial, for offering an 1892 Five-Dollar Liberty previously, they say, "from the collection of the famed collector James J. Pittman."

CW, 6-29-98, p. 46.

The "Proofreader's Day Off" award goes to sextuple winner Jay Parrino for his undated price list, received as a supplement to the August 9, 1998 edition of *Numismatic News*. Among the choice bits within, are the following: (1) "Unlike many dealers who shutter [sic] when a client calls them to sell back the coins they purchased ... (p. 1)." (2) Vending the "finest known 1793 Chain Cent," Parrino asserts that it is the plate coin in "Walter Breem's [sic] *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins*" (p. 2). (3) Peddling "the finest known 1793 Wreath Cent": "The pedigree is too long to include here, but its next owner will be in distinguished company indeed" (p. 2). (4) Offering the "Absolutely Unique" (as opposed to the "partially unique") 1870-S Seated Half Dime: "There is nothing more rare than something which is unique—Period, end of subject." Not quite, as he proceeds to expound on the subject for four more sentences (p. 8).

Jay Parrino Insert to *NN*, 8-9-98.

The "As Opposed to Uniquely Common Coins?" award goes to Sam Lukes, for offering "uniquely rare coins."

CW, 9-7-98, p. 44.

The "Last Word In Good Taste" award goes to Fisher Research Laboratory, for running the headline, "What does a 1957 Pontiac hubcap have in common with a 2000-year-old coin and Jimmy Hoffa's body?"

CW, 9-7-98, p. 72.

The 'No Wonder His Network Of Buyers Is So Exclusive' award goes to double winner David Vogel, who assures people with coins to sell, "We can get you more for your coins by obtaining competitive bids from an exclusive network of buyers." Mr. Vogel goes on to say, "We work on commissions, so the more money we get for your estate, collection, or single coin, the more money we make. It is in our mutual best interest to get you as much as possible for your coins."

NN, 9-1-98, p. 37.

The "David Hall Memorial Adjectival Overkill" award goes to Legend Numismatics, which has this to say about an MS-68 Elgin Commemorative: "Both sides have a monster heart pounding bright iridescent tab toning." Judge's comment: Do you suppose that "tab toning" means it was dipped in soda pop?

CW, 10-19-98, p. 73.

The "History Is Bunk" award goes to quintuple winner David Hall for this eyebrow-raising statement about a 1793 Chain Cent: "In addition, Ms. Liberty's flowing hair was considered too sexy for the times."

CW, 8-24-98, p. 52.

The "Unique - Except for 19,999 Others" award goes to Gatewest Coin Ltd., for offering "Canada's 1998 unique proof," of which, they admit later, 20,000 were minted.

CW, 2-8-99, p. 73.

The "We'll Pay More For Coins We Can't Sell" award goes to Pinnacle Rarities, for offering "ten very good reasons to sell to Pinnacle." Reasons 1 and 3 follow, verbatim. (1) "We sell directly to collectors, so we can pay more than wholesalers." (3) "We will buy everything from your collection, not just the coins we need for our clients."

CW, 2-8-99, p.125.

This year, three remarkable performances elicit special Shammies. The "Incredible Chutzpah" award goes to Bret Bogus, of Eagle Numismatics. On June 22, 1998, the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* ran a regular feature poking fun at ridiculous advertisements. One of the ads thus skewered had been placed by Eagle Numismatics. Jay Leno displayed it on camera, and chortled at the pun occasioned by Mr. Bogus' last name. Mr. Bogus promptly added a tag

line to his advertisements reading, "As seen on the Tonight Show 6/22/98" (see *NN* 8-4-98, p. 56). On the evening of September 8, 1998, Leno ran another ridiculous advertisement segment, and featured this Eagle Numismatics ad, laughing at the fact that, on June 22, he had been making fun of Mr. Bogus, and had not intended to promote his business. Shortly thereafter, a new tag line appeared on Eagle ads, "As seen on the Tonight Show, 6/22 & 9/8/98" (see *NN*, 10-13-98). It is worth noting that this ad offers approximately 1,000 coins with two provisos. The first says, "Prices are not shown to allow for more coin listings." The second says, "Regular prices are three percent higher." Judge's comment: Three percent higher than what? Perhaps the answer will be seen on the *Tonight Show*!

The "We Don't Read Our Own Catalogs" award goes to Heritage Numismatic Auctions, Inc., for their FUN sale, January 6-8, 1999. Some of their choice comments deserve to be immortalized. Lot 5029, a DMPL 1879-O Morgan Dollar: "To obtain this date in DMPL is nearly impossible." Unless, of course, you remember lot 5028, which is an 1879-O Morgan DMPL. Lot 5086, an 1884-S Morgan in MS-62: "Just try and find one that is really ... new." To do so, just turn the page, where lots 5087-5089 are all mint-state 1884-S

Morgans. Lot 6276, a 1922 No D Lincoln Cent in MS-63: "This is only the second or third mint-state coin we can remember having handled in the past fifteen years." Or at least the past 15 seconds, for lot 6276 is a 1922 No D Lincoln Cent in MS-62. Nor can we overlook the verbal gymnastics. Lot 5439: "Basically sharp except for occasional mushiness." Lot 5482, headlined as a "pleasing and problem-free 1794 dollar," that has, according to the detailed description, a shallow scratch on the obverse, a planchet void in the date, and a rim nick on the reverse. Problem-free, indeed! Finally, two outright errors. Lot 5700, offering an 1828 Half Eagle, says, "As with all known examples, hair curls around Liberty's face and the feathers on the eagle's right wing are weakly struck." Lot 904 in Auction 88 was a fully-struck proof-like 1828 Half Eagle. Lot 5762, an 1861-S Pacquet Double Eagle, is described thus: "This very challenging issue was not discovered and distinguished as a separate variety until the 1930s." Actually, lot 1317 of New York Stamp & Coins 1890 sale of the Parmelee collection is identified in the catalog as "Pacquet's designs."

Thanks to NBS member Karl Moulton for finding these award winners.

The "Most Linguistically Creative Catalog Of The Year"

award goes to Superior Stamp & Coin, for their February 8-10, 1999 auction. The inspired inventions are many. Lot 396: "A few freckles in the right reverse field but nothing in the way of dreaded spots." Lot 552: "The surfaces are alive with luster, with the fields dancing with mint imparted vibrancy." Lot 595: "This has a pure-blood provenance" (apparently, murders were involved). Lot 737: "Utterly gorgeous pristine white luster that is toned only at the rims" (pristine luster that is toned is much like a virgin who is experienced). Lot 1041: "Scintillating and bright, and glows with a silvery fire only rarely found in a Seated Half Dollar coin. Moreover the surface – whose bloom seems to dance in delight in its mint-fresh glory – the surface is nicely toned in shades that include lavender and blue (obverse) turning to deep sunset orange-reds and golds with some blue (reverse)." (Apparently, this coin represents the first case of mint-applied toning!) Lot 1310: "The luster proclaims its snowy whiteness with loud blaring horns and clash of symbols [sic]." (Could this be only a symbolic statement?) Lot 1348, an 1893-S Morgan graded MS-65: "This date is virtually unknown in true gem condition ... only seven have been so graded, with a single coin graded higher." (Apparently, these eight must have been graded before

they became "known.") Lot 3277: "Abounding in rare qualities!" (just as the catalog is abounding in meaningless adjectives)! Lot 3514: "Struck using an 'all brilliant' finish ..." (and we had always thought they were struck using a coin press). This catalog also abounded in blunders. Lot 691: "Twenty-Cent coins were struck only in 1875-8 before the Mint abolished the denomination." (The Mint does not abolish denominations; Congress does.) Lot 692: "This is the last issued Twenty-Cent piece after a brief four-year run. The shortest for a regular production denomination in the entire series of American numismatics." (Susan B. Anthony Dollars were produced for three years, 1979-81, and resumed briefly in 1999.) Lot 1795: "King Farouk was an avid collector. In his time, which spanned the 1930s to 1954, when he died ..." (he was exiled in 1954; he died in 1965).

Thanks to Karl Moulton for this remarkable set of blunders.

And now, some amusing bloopers to close out our lengthy offering.

The "Most Ambiguously Titillating Headline of the Year" award goes to Coin World, for "Bimetallic Members Ponder Meeting." Judge's comment: Does this mean that the members of the club are bimetallic in composition? Or does it mean

that the members' members are bimetallic? If the latter, Viagra is sure to become obsolete!

CW, 10-19-98, p. 8.

The "Keep Your Sweaty Palms Off My Coins, Buster!" award goes to John Meeks, a grader for NGC, for the following testimony: "As close as I've come to having sweaty palms was when we graded the Eliasberg and ANA (Beebe) 1913 Nickels and the two ANA 1804 Dollars ... Holding them and getting a long close look was a great experience."

CW, 5-18-98, p. 65.

The "Something Got Lost in the Translation" award goes to the book edited by Osmund Bopearachchi and D.P.M. Weerakhody, entitled *Evolution and Circulation of Foreign Coins in the Indian Ocean*. Judge's comment: Actually, foreign coins do more sinking than circulating in the Indian Ocean.

Biblionumis-Listserve communication, 7-31-98.

The "Come Again About That Name?" award goes to the Royal Canadian Mint for touring its massive 125-ounce gold nugget to local television stations. The nugget, named (your judge is not making this up) "Climax," made an appearance on the KTLA morning news show in Los Angeles where Donn Pearlman explained that "Climax" was found in 1907 at

Rainbow Creek in Australia, when the location of the find was being excavated for a brothel. Judge's comment: This was a lucky discovery. Collectors should not expect to routinely find Climax every time they visit a brothel!

CW, 6-29-98, p.72.

The "Most Shocking Headline Of The Year" award goes to Ira and Larry Goldberg, for headlining their ad, "Take advantage of us." Judge's comment: One can

only hope that the membership of "Women in Numismatics" did not take this invitation literally! NN, 10-13-98, p. 21.

This ends the tenth edition of the annual "Shammies" awards. Experience teaches us that the hype never stops, and there will be much more to report upon next year. Until then, gentle readers, here's to accurate descriptions and straightforward prose!

Book Review

by Larry Dziubek

Communion Tokens of the World

by Lester M. Burzinski

The author made many trips to Scotland, the seat of knowledge and the home of the majority of communion token issued. Every trip added information and tokens for his collection; and this was the basis for his tome on the subject. His book is certainly a handsome and sturdy volume. There are 7730 communion token varieties listed, and there are 4620 photos within the 579 pages.

The best features of this book are:

1. The most comprehensive listing ever assembled.
2. Each token has a complete description of each side.
3. There is a glossary of

tokens issued in various countries and cities.

4. The photos are quite good considering the subject matter.

5. Listings include the attributions of previous catalogues.

Some will consider it an oversight that there is no rarity or value guide, but serious collectors know that this is nearly impossible. You will also have to re-list new numbers on all the tokens in your collection. However, you should be able to identify any of those that have previously eluded you. The price of the book is \$80.00, postpaid.

You can send your orders directly to:

Lester Burzinski
2105 Oakridge Avenue
Madison, WI 53704

News From the Net

by Pete Smith

The E-Sylum is an electronic publication of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. To receive these reports, send your e-mail address to Wayne Homren at whomren@coinlibrary.com. Following is a distillation of items included between July 4 and December 26, 1999.

Literature Tragedy Averted

The October 10, 1999, issue of The E-Sylum reported that California currency dealer Arri Jacob was selling vignettes from a Bureau of Engraving and Printing presentation book from the 1860's to 1870's. The report suggested that the known population of such books had now dropped below 50. The issue for the following week included additional information from Ken Barr. He reported that the volume was thoroughly disbound when Jacob acquired it.

Research Requests

Daryl Atchinson asked for a copy of a Paramount sale from 1975.

Dave Bowers is looking for "contemporary advertisements, newspaper notices, paper material, trial strikings, dies etc. relating to the origin and history of Civil War Tokens." Bowers can be reached through chris@bowersandmerena.com.

David Cassell asked for comparison samples of handwriting

of Jacob Eckfeldt and William E. DuBois. He wanted to confirm the sources of documents related to Postage Currency Coins. Joel Orosz offered photocopies of book inscriptions by both authors. Pete Smith mentioned an Eckfeldt document illustrated in Craig Whitford's catalog of October 6, 1995. Later Cassell responded with thanks to Orosz for helping confirm his sources.

David J. Davis asked for help on listings of the 1802 half dime in Steigerwalt's Fixed Price Lists. Joel Orosz also forwarded information to Davis on 1802 half dimes handled by Ebenezer Locke Mason.

Bill Fivaz asked if anyone was working on an update to the Hibler and Kappen reference on so-called dollars. "It's in very bad need of updating, and I think someone who is qualified could do the hobby a great service by undertaking such a venture."

George Kolbe responded, "How times do change. I recall in the late 1970s being offered 1,000 - yes one thousand - copies of Hibler & Kappen @ \$1.00 per copy and passing on the deal. These books were a drug on the market, dogs! Anyone acquainted with the numismatic literature marketplace knows the phenomenon well: when a book is in print or widely available you can't sell it;

when it is out of print you can't buy it."

Lawrence J. Lee who is with the Durham Western Heritage Museum, home to the Byron Reed collection, asked for help matching Reed's coins with auction sales.

Bob Murphy asked for a source of information on Director of the Mint Horatio Burchard. Pete Smith responded with a brief biography.

Bill Murray asked for a copy of prices realized from Chapman's sale of December 9-10, 1920.

Pete Smith asked for information about a picture of Matthew Stickney. Responses indicated four sources: 1) hard-bound catalogs of the 1907 Chapman sale of the Stickney collection; 2) A card inserted in some 1907 issues of *The Numismatist*; 3) pictures included in genealogies written by Stickney; and 4) a drawing by Alan Dietz derived from these earlier drawings and included in Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature*, p. 97.

Michael Sullivan asked about O.A. Jennison and about other examples from Jennison's library. Joel Orosz provided a brief biography of Jennison but no new leads on his library.

Sullivan also asked about Johnson reprints of the *American Journal of Numismatics*. He wondered which issues of AJN were reprinted.

Publications Announced

John Adams' *Indian Peace Medals or His Majesties Sometimes Allies* is now available from George Kolbe. He can be reached at Numislit@compuserve.com.

Georges Depeyrot announced publication of *Les Monnaies Hellenistiques de Marseilles*. His e-mail address is Georges.Depyrot@ehess.fr.

Depeyrot also announced publication of *Inventory of Coin Finds in Armenia* by Khatchatur Mousheghian, Anahit Mousheghian and Georges Depeyrot.

David Ganz' book *The Official Guide to U.S. Commemorative Coins* is now available from Bonus Books at \$13.95.

Vedams Books International announced publication of *A Macro Study of Early Indian Coins*. Their address is vedams@vedamsbooks.com.

ANA Exhibits

NBS President Michael Sullivan lamented the cost and time required for an ANA exhibit. "The real issue is that ANA is too restrictive relative to display placement. Last year's ANA in Portland required me to leave for the convention about 2 days earlier than required to place my display at a personal cost of about \$300. This is a lot of 'cost' to incur for the restrictions. If the ANA becomes more progressive and expands the time slot options, more displays will be

placed.”

E-Sylum editor Wayne Homren responded. “As a past exhibitor myself, I have to agree with Michael’s point. Although the main reason for my not displaying this year was my plan to bring my family along, I run into the same problem each year. It’s an expensive proposition to attend an extra day or two, especially when the use of precious vacation days is taken into account. My hat is off to the dedicated souls who devote the bulk of the week to attending the convention.”

ANA Chief Judge Joe Boling responded. “Two days earlier than what? ANA only requires that the exhibit be in place on the morning that the convention opens (and stay in place until it closes). Even if a person is planning to only attend three days of the convention, s/he can still use the surrogate installation/removal provisions by appointing an agent. I know, this is clumsy, but it is an option, and we have had a best-of-show winner (YN division) who never attended the convention at all.”

The 1999 exhibit winner in the Numismatic Literature class went to Lawrence Sekulich for “A Bibliographic Introduction to Collecting Ancient Greek Coins.” It was the only exhibit in the class.

Report from ANA Convention

The NBS general meeting was on Friday, August 13, 1999, with about 40 people attending. ANA Librarian Nawana Briten-

riker reported on book preservation. She described the efforts and \$600 cost required to restore a copy of A. M. Smith’s *Visitor’s Guide to the U.S. Mint*. She did not mention that a copy in normal state of preservation can usually be bought for around \$75. She did justify the expense reporting the funds were donated by the Women in Numismatics (WIN) specifically for that book.

ANS Executive Director, Dr. Ute Wartenberg, showed plans for the new ANS building in New York City. The final speaker was John Burns who told some of his experiences visiting numismatic libraries and his appreciation for others in the hobby.

NBS Awards

The 1998 NBS writer’s award was presented to Randolph Zander for his series of articles on the history of the hobby.

The Great Debate

The Fall 1999 issue of *The Asylum* included Joel Orosz’ report on “The Great Debate” between Dr. Theodore V. Buttrey and Michael Hodder at the 1999 ANA Convention in Chicago. The E-Sylum had early reactions including some from those whose opinions were not influenced by attendance at the event.

Angel Pietri commented, “I have read Mr. Buttrey’s article and all the recent articles in *Coin World*. To call his research ‘superficial’ amounts in my opinion to flattery. His article is sheer speculation based on his dislike of John Ford. I cannot describe

his evidence as weak because he simply presented no evidence."

James Spillman also commented, "I went back and reread Buttrey's original paper in *AJN* 9 and – in light of the current discussions – I wonder exactly what it was Buttrey was thinking/writing about – his illustrations were gold assay strips (bars), but he simply referred to his subject as False American Gold Bars or simply 'gold bars.' Nowhere does he seem to recognize the purpose or usage for the strips. Assay strips are considerably different from bullion gold bars, or gold coinage. I suppose that I must reread Buttrey's paper several more times before I can sort out all of his thinking; it is not well written."

ANA Education Director Gail Baker reported that tapes of the "Great Debate" could be borrowed from the ANA library or purchased for \$50.

Katen Update

Frank Katen was reported to have retired to a nursing home. John Huffman reported in late August, "I saw Laurese last Tuesday, and she told me Frank was much improved, is eating well, walking around the nursing home with the help of a cane, and is complaining about too many bosses. She was hopeful he would come home in a week or two."

Deaths Noted

Wayne Anderson, founder of the Conder Token Collectors Club, died June 30, 1999, at the

age of 58. He had an extensive numismatic library as well as books related to his collections of guns, knives, marbles and metal toys.

Numismatic Trivia Question

E. Tomlinson Fort recently moved "The Fort Memorial Numismatic Library" and commented that he was shopping for busts of Roman Emperors to put atop the shelves. This is not an original idea and The E-Sylum asked who was the famous source for this concept.

In a later edition, Wayne had the answer. Sir Robert Cotton (1571-1631) had his bookshelves topped with emperors. His library was the nucleus of the British Library. [*Editor's Note:* The imperial busts formed the basis of the catalog of Sir Robert's library. For example, the *Beowulf* manuscript is Cotton Vitellius A. XV – the bookcase under the bust of the emperor Vitellius, first shelf down, 15th book from the left. Frankly I think this system is much more elegant than either the Dewey Decimal or Library of Congress systems.] In addition to his books Sir Robert was also a collector of coins. A number of specimens from his cabinets are still in the British Museum.

eBay Show Report

David Sklow reported on the eBay collectibles show in Columbus, Ohio. "Great show, great seminars and great eBay support but no people!!! If you can imagine, at the ribbon cutting there were only a few dozen

people. I was there Friday 11:00 AM, empty! Again Saturday at noon, empty!"

Appreciation

Jan Monroe expressed his thanks to David Bowers for reprinting the Warner & Brother catalog. "This catalog provided

me with the source of two obscure medals that are included in my book on state anniversary medals that had previously been a mystery (at least to me). Finding a new fact is like finding water in the desert. It gives you encouragement to go on."

The Numismatic Bibliomania Society Membership Application

YES, I hereby apply for membership in the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. I understand that I will receive the Society's quarterly journal, *The Asylum*.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City : _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

My collecting interests are: _____

Membership dues are \$15.00 in North America, \$20.00 elsewhere. Members receive all copies of the current volume of *The Asylum*.

Return application with payment to:

NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY

DAVID HIRT, SECRETARY

5911 QUINN ORCHARD ROAD

FREDERICK, MD 21701

I hereby make application for membership in the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, subject to the bylaws of the organization.

Signature of Applicant

Date

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There is no charge for the catalog—please write, fax or
email for your copy.

A specially produced and bound edition will be available
after the sale. Details will be provided in the sale catalog.

Catalogued by:

Allan Davisson, Ph.D.
Davissons Ltd.
Cold Spring, MN 56320
(Our full address)

FAX: 320-685-8636 Email: davcoin@aol.com

George Marion Klein of Vicksburg, Mississippi by J. H. McInnis

George Marion Klein had one of the largest, and most important, collections of coins in the late 19th century, yet today he has almost been forgotten. What follows is an outline of the family and career of one of the collectors fortunate enough to own such rareties as the 1804 dollar.

George M. Klein was born in Vicksburg, Miss., on July 5, 1844. He was the first child of John Alexander Klein and Elizabeth Bartley (Day) Klein.

George Klein's ancestry on his father's side was of predominately German stock and on his mother's side mostly English. The earliest paternal ancestor known appears to have been Jacob Klein of Wartenburg, Germany. Jacob Klein's date of birth has not been determined but it appears that he came to "the Colonies" about 1768 in the company of the Prussian Baron DeKalb.

Jacob Klein enlisted as a member of the German Regiment from Maryland, serving with Baron DeKalb at the Battle of Camden. Jacob Klein is recorded as having taken the Oath of Fidelity to the State of Maryland on Feb. 2, 1777.

Jacob's death in Frederick Md., in 1785 left his widow Anna Maria (Seiler) Klein (to whom he had been married in Frederick on Jan. 13, 1767) with three small children, all born in Frederick: Peter, born 1771; Mary

Elizabeth, born 1781; and Lewis, born 15 March 1783. No information has been found concerning the birth or death of Anna Maria (Seiler) Klein.

The line of descent from Jacob Klein to George Marion Klein was via Lewis Klein (third child of Jacob) and John Alexander Klein (fourth child of Lewis). No attempt will be made here to give detailed biographies of Jacob, Lewis, or John Alexander but a few sentences concerning each will put the family into perspective.

Little has been discovered about the early years of Lewis Klein but he was married to Elizabeth Conard on May 1, 1806 in Waterford Va. Elizabeth, born April 28, 1789, was the daughter (third child) of Anthony and Mary Conard. The Conards were Quakers and there is a suggestion that some of the Kleins of that period may have been Quakers also. Lewis and Elizabeth Klein had eleven children. John Alexander Klein, born Nov. 15, 1812, was their fourth child.

John Alexander Klein and all his siblings were born in Waterford, Va. John Alexander continued to live in Waterford throughout the years of his youth but, upon reaching maturity, apparently felt that there were better opportunities to be found elsewhere. In this evaluation time proved him abundantly correct.

In 1836, at age 24, he migrated to Vicksburg, Miss. In today's United States, Mississippi is thought of in terms of a country that stretches from ocean to ocean but, in 1836, Mississippi was the "western frontier" of a country that was barely 60 years old. John Alexander Klein followed his father's trade, that of a jeweler. Among the earliest surviving business records of John Alexander's time in Vicksburg are such things as newspaper advertisements for his jewelry shop. It didn't take John Alexander Klein very long in Vicksburg to make him realize that one of the area's major needs and opportunities lay in the lumber business. Several of John Alexander's brothers also took advantage of the opportunity for investment in the Vicksburg area but that is a subject for some other essay. John Alexander Klein's father, Lewis, died in Virginia in 1837 and his mother, Elizabeth, died in Maryland in 1839. John Alexander seems to have accepted Vicksburg as his home for the remainder of his life.

By 1840, John Alexander had prospered to such an extent that he began the construction of a town home just south of Vicksburg. This home, still in existence at the time of this writing in 1999, is named "Cedar Grove". Originally, Cedar Grove was sized to the needs of a wealthy bachelor but in time, however, this bachelor found a wife. On 8 November 1842 John Alexander Klein and Elizabeth

Bartley Day were married. Elizabeth Day was born in Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio on 3 January 1826, the daughter of Sylvanus and Susan (Bartley) Day and the granddaughter of former Ohio Governor Mordecai Bartley and his wife Susan (Wells) Bartley. Although born in Ohio, Elizabeth had been raised in Vicksburg by her parents who moved there early in her life. George Marion Klein, born in Vicksburg on 5 July 1844, was the first of ten children to be born to John Alexander and Elizabeth Bartley Klein.

George's early years must have been very pleasant. The South was at peace and his parents were wealthy and socially prominent in Vicksburg. George's education in that city was what was considered appropriate for a young man likely to become principle heir to a significant fortune.

As additional children were born to the Kleins, Cedar Grove was enlarged to accomodate them. In 1852 two wings were added to the original square house. These provided space both for the enlarged family and for the more elaborate social functions that the family's position in the city required.

All this ended in 1861 when the Civil War began. George was only 17 but, as with many Southern youth, he volunteered his services. Because of his youth, he was posted to an assignment in Florida for much of the war.

In common with many wealthy young soldiers, George

brought one of the family's household slaves with him to serve as his personal valet. The wartime tales of George and "Uncle Henry," as the slave was called, might well provide a story of their own. It is sufficient to say that both George and Uncle Henry survived the war and returned to Vicksburg.

The wartime tales of John Alexander and Elizabeth Klein and her mother, Susan Bartley Day, during the siege of Vicksburg might also merit a story of their own. Elizabeth and her mother had a few privileges during the siege that most did not.

Susan Bartley Day's brother Thomas W. Bartley was married to General William T. Sherman's sister Susan. This rather distant relationship was, however, sufficient to cause the General to issue a safe-conduct pass allowing Elizabeth (again pregnant at the time) and her mother to pass out of Vicksburg through the Federal lines to a place of greater safety.

The Kleins, as with most Southerners, suffered financial losses as a result of the war but they were fortunate in that they were not "wiped out" as so many were. Lumber was still in demand and John Alexander Klein expanded his postwar investments into railroads and banking with considerable success.

Following the war, George is reported to have attended Heidelberg University in Germany. After his graduation, he returned to Vicksburg and

became associated with his father's business ventures.

On July 30, 1868 George and Louise Harrison Balfour were married at Vicksburg's Christ (Episcopal) Church by the Rev. Henry Sansom, D.D. Louise was the oldest child of Dr. William Thomas and Emma (Harrison) Balfour. The Balfours, both from old Virginia families, were also prominent in Vicksburg's social circles.

Dr. Balfour was already established as a physician prior to the war and achieved considerable esteem and respect for his treatment of the ill and wounded during the siege. Emma Balfour kept a diary during the siege that, although relatively brief, is considered to be one of the best such accounts to have survived. George Marion and Louise Harrison Klein ultimately had eleven children, all born in Vicksburg.

As stated above, George was involved in various business ventures with his father. In 1870 The Mississippi Valley Bank opened for business with John Alexander Klein as president and George Marion Klein as cashier. It has been reported that the Mississippi Valley Bank was not only the largest financial institution in Vicksburg but was probably the largest bank in the state at the time.

John Alexander retired in 1881 due to ill health and died in 1884. On his father's retirement, George became President of the bank. The bank prospered until 1883 when poor investments caused it to fail.

It is reported that one of the principle causes for the bank failure was speculation in grain futures. In those days there was no Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to bail out depositors of failed banks and many people lost substantial sums. There was no indication of malfeasance on the part of the bank management but it would seem obvious that poor judgement was involved.

At any rate, George's sense of honor caused him to promise that he would personally repay all losses sustained by the public within his lifetime. He was true to this commitment and it is reported that by the time of his death, on Dec. 22, 1923, all such losses had been made good. In doing so, however, he saw the family fortunes slide downward toward what has often been referred to as "genteel poverty."

The following is quoted from a 1903 entry in the journal of R. V. Booth (whose daughter, Mamie, married William Balfour Klein, George's eldest son):

"From that time [i.e., the bank failure] the business and political influence of George M. Klein began to wane and he ceased to be a potential factor in the affairs of the city."

"He went to the country and followed the life of a farmer for many years but being wholly uneducated along that line and unfitted for agricultural pursuits, his efforts were unavailing and he returned to the city and is now where we find him, seated at his desk in an insurance office, working with all his old-time

vigor and energy in the hard effort to eke out a bare living for his rather large family."

It has not yet been determined just when George Marion Klein first became interested in numismatics but he obviously was strongly infected with the collecting bug. As a member of one of the wealthiest families in Vicksburg, George was able to indulge his numismatic interests. The size and quality that his collection ultimately reached suggests that he almost certainly spent a great deal of effort and a good number of years in its acquisition.

At its peak, his collection included many valuable rarities. Not least of these rarities was the "Davis" specimen of the United States 1804 silver dollar which he purchased in 1883 from dealer John W. Haseltine for the then princely sum of \$1,200.

Unfortunately, he was only able to enjoy this particular rarity for a few years. This now-forgotten but fabulous collection was sold in a series of four auctions in 1888 and 1889. The four sections of the sale were all cataloged by W. Elliot Woodward and the actual sales were conducted by "Messrs. Bangs & Co." of 739 and 741 Broadway, New York City (see bibliography for sale dates).

The author has not yet been able to gain access to the actual catalogs but the title page of the first sale, which included the U.S. Coins, states: "No collection surpassing this has appeared since the famous Mickley sale of 1857, and in some of its special-

ties it is hardly equalled by any collection in Europe or elsewhere. "

Although no specific financial records survive which prove just how big a part the sale of his coin collection played in the restitution of losses from the failure of the Mississippi Valley Bank, the timing of the sale leaves little doubt that it was intended to play some part.

As a collector, your author can feel some of the regrets that would be engendered by having to part with one's coins under circumstances such as these. Also, one cannot but wish that the collection could have been kept within the family and passed down through the generations. It would have been nice to be able to own a coin or two from an ancestor's collection such as this – an 1804 dollar, for example.

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The Author:

Jordan Hugh McInnis (Jr.), is the great-grandson of George Marion Klein. The line of descent is via William Balfour Klein (first child of George) and Elizabeth Balfour Klein (second child of William Balfour). Elizabeth Balfour Klein married Jordan Hugh McInnis, Sr. J.H. McInnis is a retired Electronics Engineer, "does genealogy" as one of his hobbies, he also collects the coinage of Scotland.

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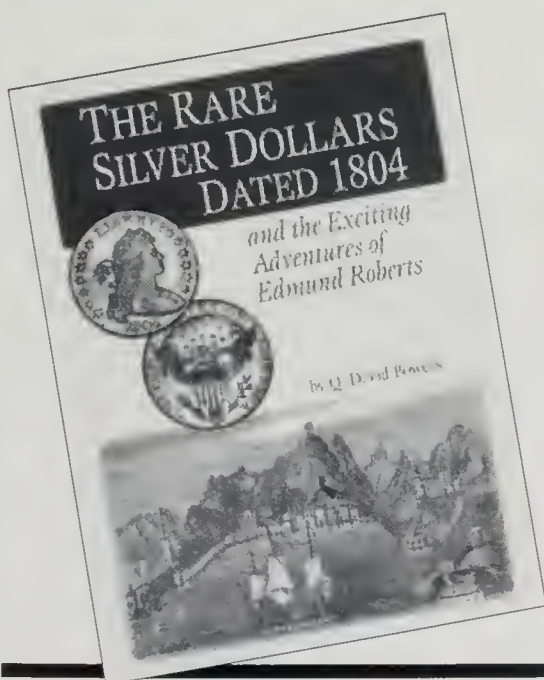
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